

CLAIMS

1. A system for providing digital audio content in an automobile, the system comprising:

5 a central processing unit comprising (a) a microprocessor for decoding and delivering digital audio content; (b) a storage device for storing the digital audio content; (c) a random access memory for storing temporary data for running one or more application programs; (d) a power supply for providing power to the central processing unit, wherein the central processing unit is located in the automobile;

10 an input unit comprising (e) a set of function controls for enabling a user to select one or more digital audio selections; (f) a receiver for receiving input from a remote control device for selecting one or more digital audio selections; and (g) a voice activated input device for receiving voice commands from a user for selecting one or more digital audio selections; wherein the input unit is located proximate to a driver's seat of the automobile; and

15 a dashboard unit comprising a liquid crystal display for displaying media data related to the digital audio content in response to the digital audio selection, wherein the dashboard unit is mounted on a dashboard of the automobile at a location within the user's reach.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital audio content is in MP3 format.

20 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the input unit further comprises a bar code scanner for selecting one or more digital audio selections.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital audio content further comprises an electronic book.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital audio content further comprises video data for display on the liquid crystal display of the dashboard unit.

5 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital audio selection comprises one or more of volume control and order of play.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the system is designed to play more than 200 hours of music from a single source of digital audio content.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote control device is attached to a  
10 steering wheel of the automobile.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the voice activated input further comprises a microphone attached to one or more of a visor and a steering wheel of the automobile.

10. The system of claim 1, further comprising a parallel port for connecting the central processing unit and the dashboard unit for communication.

15 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the storage device is removable for interaction with a remote computer.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more digital audio selections comprises at least a particular musical selection within a collection of digital audio content in MP3 format.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the voice activated input device operates as a voice recognition device wherein one or more specific users are authorized to control the system via the input unit.